

Independence and Security Act of 2007. It doesn't give us independence, and it darn sure doesn't give us security. What they did in that particular bill is they put in a section, section 526, that the Hensarling-Conaway legislation, H.R. 5656, would repeal that section 526.

Why is that important?

Well, section 526 literally prohibits our Government, any agency of our Federal Government, from contracting for any petroleum product that is not conventional fuel if that product, that nonconventional petroleum source, yields one scintilla—by the way, my colleagues, a “scintilla” is a very, very small amount—of an increased carbon dioxide footprint.

Now, ladies and gentlemen of the House, that may have made sense when the price of gasoline was \$2.60 a gallon and when we had this expectation and this hope that it would drop down to \$1.50, but on June 24, 2008, when the price of gasoline has now gone up 75 percent—not down—and it's \$4.08 a gallon, does it make any sense to prohibit our Federal Government from contracting for other sources of petroleum? They are in this country in abundance.

The reason I have this poster is I want to point out to my colleagues—and it doesn't show the exact spot, but in the western States, in the Rocky Mountain States—and there are about five of them—there is this rock product called shale, S-H-A-L-E. It is estimated by the geologists, by the experts, that within that rock is 1.3 trillion barrels of petroleum. Yet our Federal Government is prohibited from mining that shale and from getting this petroleum source because it might, just might, result in a little bit more carbon dioxide.

To put it in perspective, Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government actually uses 380,000 barrels of refined product every day, and most of that is used by the Department of Defense, and 75 percent of their usage is by the Air Force in jet fuel. Just think about that and the cost. Well, I'm going to tell you exactly what it is.

For the year 2008, this year, it's estimated that our Air Force will spend an additional \$9 billion on jet fuel at the cost of \$135 a barrel of petroleum. Yet all of this oil and natural gas and this petroleum that we could get from shale in the Midwest, in the Rocky Mountain States, sits there, and there it remains trapped in rock because of this senseless section 526 that the Democrats passed last year in their energy bill, in their so-called Energy Independence and Security Act.

It is time, as Mr. HENSARLING, as Mr. CONAWAY and as the many other cosponsors, including myself, have said, to say, look, that doesn't make any sense today. We're all concerned about global warming—of course we are—and about the environment and about clean air, but we're not going to die tomorrow from that. We are about to starve to death, and this country is about to go bankrupt when people can't get to

work and when they can't get to the grocery store. When they get to the grocery store, they can't afford to buy food because of this senseless ethanol conversion from corn to ethanol. That's a whole different issue. I'm just here tonight to weigh in with my colleagues. I thank them for giving me the time.

I sit on two committees—on the House Armed Services Committee and on the Science and Technology Committee. This year, of course, we reauthorized the National Defense Act of 2009, and we reauthorized the NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Act. Both of these agencies of the Federal Government utilize a lot of jet fuel. I tried to take the Hensarling-Conaway bill and make it as an amendment to strike that section or at least to grant a waiver from that restriction of 526.

This Democratic leadership refused to even make those bills in order so that the men and women, the common-sense men and women on both sides of the aisle in this Chamber, would have an opportunity to vote up or down in these trying economic times when we're losing jobs and when people can't even afford to go to work.

So I thank the gentleman for letting me join with the Texas delegation, if you will—my three classmates—who know so much about this issue and about the many other issues of supply and demand as Ms. FOXX said earlier. So I look forward to the rest of the hour.

I yield back to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING).

Mr. HENSARLING. I thank the gentleman from Georgia for joining us, and I certainly appreciate his illuminating comments.

Mr. Speaker, I hope people listened very carefully to what the gentleman had to say.

First, again, since the Democrats took over the Nation's energy policies 18 months ago, the price of gasoline, as almost every working family in America knows, has increased, roughly, 70 percent in just 18 months. How does that impact working families in America?

Well, Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of representing the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, and I go out of my way to make sure that I reach out to my constituents and understand the challenges, their hopes and aspirations, and I hear from them frequently.

I have recently heard from the Thomas family in Mesquite, Texas. They wrote to me.

“Dear Congressman, to make up for the rising prices, we calculate the use of the car to make the gas last a week. Some things we no longer can buy. We have had to cut back on our groceries. We rarely have three meals a day anymore.”

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Mr. Speaker, I know they don't mean to do it. I know there are men and

women of good intentions, but under the Democrat energy policies, people in Mesquite, Texas, can no longer have three meals a day. That is the result of these policies.

Again, as they have tried to beg, castigate, tax and criminalize their way into lower gas prices, they have failed each and every time. What they want to do is produce American energy in America. As the gentleman from Georgia pointed out, under their policies, Mr. Speaker, 85 percent, 85 percent of our deep-sea resources are put out of bounds, out of bounds. And 75 percent of our onshore resources, out of bounds.

The Arctic area of Alaska where more than half of America's proven energy reserves reside, no, can't produce American energy there. Why wouldn't you want to do that when people are suffering?

Now there are so many different things that we need to do, but the most important thing that we need to do, Mr. Speaker, is produce American energy in America. I just read today where there was a huge discovery of petroleum off the coast of Brazil. In Brazil, they celebrated. What a wonderful thing, we have these huge new energy reserves. America must be the only country in the world that when we discover great energy reserves, it is a cause for mourning. Oh, no, we have oil. Oh, no, we have natural gas. Quick let's go out, let's make sure nobody can touch it. It is a point of shame. We can't have these natural resources helping working American families.

I mean, what a fouled-up policy, Mr. Speaker.

I am very happy that we have been joined tonight by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) who knows all too well what the Democrat majority has done to put all of this energy out of bounds and who will speak to us more about what needs to be done in leasing our deep-sea resources and the Arctic area of Alaska. I am very happy to yield time to Mr. CARTER.

Mr. CARTER. I am honored to be here with my colleagues from Texas. As I start, I am sure there is someone somewhere who is saying, yes, there are three Texans on the floor from the largest petroleum-producing State in the Nation, and of course they want to talk about oil and gas. Well, of course we do.

Also, I think most of us who are here tonight have lived with this industry in our homes and our hometowns in our State. And there seems to be some kind of mystery about terminology that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle I assume are confused about but I don't think that they would intentionally use sloganism to misadvise the American public. But they are in charge of the House, and it is their responsibility to know what we mean when we say lease space for production of oil and gas.

Now the concept of leasing is not a tough concept. This House is full of lawyers, but it doesn't take a lawyer to